5. Porambokes.

Revd. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayenkulam) suggested the desirability of surveying and demarcating all the *poramboke* lands in the State, so as to enable the people to know the exact limits of such lands and to avoid vexatious *poramboke* cases being started according to the whims of the taluk surveyors. Proceedings were often taken under the Land Conservancy Regulation against people who were not the actual trespassers, but who were only the successors in title of the original trespassers. Such prosecutions were hard because the parties came into possession of the lands in good faith, and therefore lenient consideration was necessary. He added that belated prosecutions were due to the failure and indifference on the part of the village officers in the matter of the prompt detection of encroachments. Long possession for 12 years and more should operate against the right of the Government to prosecute a man for encroachment on Sirkar land, in accordance with the principle recognised by civil courts. The Member also pointed out that prosecutions conducted in respect of *poramboke* lands adjoining roads, canals etc., and against the owners of shops built on Sirkar market sites in pursuance of the permission granted by a Government Circular of 1045, were painful to the parties concerned. He, therefore, requested that prosecutions against persons who had long possession of *poramboke* lands might be ordered to be stopped and that, in cases in which the *poramboke* lands adjoining roads, canals etc., were limited in extent, and contained buildings or parts of buildings, such lands should be ordered to be registered in the names of the occupants on payment of a *Vilayartham*.

Dewan's reply.—Individual cases will be considered on their merits. It is not possible to lay down any general rule.

6. The desirability of reducing the tharavila, thadivila and tax on Puduval lands in the Ranni and Kumbazha pakuthies.

Mr. C. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that, out of the 12,000 acres of Sirkar land available for registry within the surveyed limits in the taluk, applications for registry had been received in respect of about 10,000 acres. But most of the applicants were withdrawing their applications. That was due not to the absence of demand for land from the people of the State but to the enhancement of the *tharavila* from Rs. 3 to Rs. 15 per acre. No doubt, a few lands were purchased from private persons by some rubber planters at a high acreage value, but those lands lay on the sides of roads or rivers. The lands still remaining to be registered were in the interior of the *pakuthies*, so much so that even the timber standing on such lands was not of much value to the applicants, owing to the absence of transport facilities.

Dewan.—If the applicants are not willing to take up the timber on the lands, would it be a relief to them if the Government should order the removal of the tree-growth through the Forest Department?

Member.—If the removal could be effected within a reasonably short time, the applicants will, I think, have no objection.

The Member, continuing, said that the tax of one rupee per acre also pressed heavily on the people. He, therefore, prayed for the reduction of the *tharavila* and assessment to Rs. 3 and fanams 5 per acre respectively. He added that, if that were done, the extensive areas still available would be very soon brought under registry.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar, Quilon and the Conservator of Forests will be asked to report on the Member's representations.

7. The hardships suffered by the ryots of Nanjinad in paying their paddy and money tax, on account of the different measures now in use.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) observed that, with the introduction of the rules under the Weights and Measures Regulation, the *marakal* was adopted as the standard measure for the Tovala and Agastiswaram

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